

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 /163 W
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R 310840Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7972

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, DA

SUBJECT: KRAG'S VIEWS ON HIS NEW MISSION

1. I INVITED JENS OTTO KRAG TO LUNCH ON OCTOBER 30. WE HAD NOT MET BEFORE BUT I WAS, OF COURSE, FAMILIAR WITH HIS PROMINENT ROLE IN DANISH POLITICAL LIFE FOR THE LAST QUARTER CENTURY. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS FORTHCOMING ASSIGNMENT AS EC REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT HE WILL PROCEED FROM BRUSSELS TO WASHINGTON IN MID NOVEMBER. AFTER A FEW DAYS, MOSTLY TO SETTLE STAFF AND HOUSING DETAILS, HE PLANS TO RETURN TO BRUSSELS FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS. KRAG SAID THAT HE PLANS TO CALL ON THE SECRETARY AND ON OTHER PROMINENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH EC AFFAIRS "IF THEY WILL RECEIVE ME". I ASSURED HIM THAT HE NEED HAVE NO FEAR ON THAT SCORE.

2. KRAF SAID, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION , THAT HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER HE WOULD VISIT THE OTHER EIGHT CAPITALS. ANY SUCH VISITS WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE USEFUL AFTER HE HAD BEEN IN WASHINGTON SEVERAL MONTHS AND HAD A FEEL FOR THE SITUATION THERE.

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3. I ASKED KRAG WHAT HE SAW AS THE MAIN PROBLEMS BE-

TWEEN THE US AND THE EC. LEAVING ASIDE THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, HE REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THE TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS WERE THOSE OF THE NEW TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. HE DID NOT GO INTO ANY DETAIL ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON EITHER OF THESE SUBJECTS.

4. Krag said that he hoped to be able to enlarge somewhat the EC staff in Washington. He wanted to be sure that there were functional experts on the various fields involved - trade, finance, agriculture, etc. One of his minor concerns, he said, was that there were no cryptographic arrangements between the EC mission and its headquarters in Brussels, so all messages have to be sent in the clear. I told him that in his position this would be one of the first things I would try to correct*

5. COMMENT: I found Krag likeable and keenly interested in embarking on his new assignment. On several occasions he mentioned his warm feelings toward the United States and how much he was looking forward to renewing old friendships there. I think it very important that he be received at an appropriately high level. His prestige is such that he can be of considerable assistance in presenting our views back to the Commission in Brussels.
CROWE

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